

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2006**

DRAFT

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2006, at the American Legion Department of Virginia Headquarters Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue in Richmond.

Members Present

John Anderson, *Chairman, Board of Veterans Services*; Jim Aucoin, *AMVETS*; John C. Bonnell, Jr., *Marine Corps League*; Mason Botts, *Air Force Association*; Vince Burgess, *Commissioner, Department of Veterans Services*; David Ellis, *NAUS*; J. Pat Green, *Roanoke Valley Veterans Council*; Robert O. Gray, *American Ex-Prisoners of War*; John T. Jackson, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*; Norman Jasper, *Military Order of the Purple Heart*; James Jones, *Korean War Veterans Association*; Daniel Miller, *Disabled American Veterans*; Connie T. O'Neill, *American Legion*; Richard J. Rinaldo, *Legion of Valor of the U. S., Inc.*; R. Goodwin Sacra, *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*; Richard Schneider, *Non-Commissioned Officers Association*; Tom Stephen, Jr., *Reserve Officers Association*; Frank Wickersham, *MOAA*; and Sam Wilder, *Association of the United States Army*.

Members Absent

George Dumas, *Homeless and Disabled Veterans*; John Dunleavy, *Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge*; Paul R. Fink, *U. S. Navy Cruiser Sailors Association*; Thomas Snee, *Fleet Reserve Association*; and Peter Snelling, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*

Others Present

The Honorable John Marshall, *Secretary of Public Safety*
Judson Stanley, *Member, Board of Veterans Services/Virginia War Memorial Board of Trustees*
Ms. Barbara Tyler, *AMVETS*
John Hatfield, *Virginia War Memorial*
Harry Warner, *Virginia War Memorial*
Freddie Jones, *Virginia Department of Transportation*
Mike Duke, *Virginia Department of Transportation*
Bert Boyd, *Virginia Department of Veterans Services*
Steven Combs, *Virginia Department of Veterans Services*
Roz Trent, *Virginia Department of Veterans Services*

Materials Distributed

Meeting Agenda; draft Minutes of the March 15, 2006, meeting; Virginia Department of Veterans Services Legislative and Budget Items Related to Joint Leadership Council of Veterans

Service Organizations' 2006 Legislative Agenda, Adopted July 13, 2006; § 2.2-2681. Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Organizations; membership; terms; chairman; quorum; compensation; Upcoming Events at the Virginia War Memorial; VDOT presentation, "Transitional Internship for Returning Veterans" and Job Description – Program Administration Specialist I; May 5, 2006 memorandum to DVS employees regarding organizational changes; DVS calendar; Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures for FY 2005 Report from JLC Nominating Committee; Point Paper – Virginia Veterans Legislative Issues for 2007

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. at the American Legion Department of Virginia Headquarters Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue in Richmond. Vice-Chair Sam Wilder led the Council in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag and Chaplain Norman Jasper led the Council in prayer.

Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination

The roll was called. Fifteen of twenty-two voting members were recorded as present, and a quorum was determined. John Bonnell and Daniel Miller arrived after the roll was called.

Introduction of Guests

Chairman Wickersham introduced and welcomed the guests present: Barbara Tyler, AMVETS Post 35; John Hatfield and Harry Warner, Virginia War Memorial; Freddie Jones and Mike Duke, Virginia Department of Transportation; and Judson Stanley, Board of Veterans Services/Virginia War Memorial Board of Trustees. Chairman Wickersham acknowledged the presence of Dr. John Anderson, Chairman of the Board of Veteran Services (BVS) and Commissioner Vince Burgess, DVS. The Chairman also stated that he anticipated the arrival of the Secretary of Public Safety, John Marshall.

Review and Approval of March 15, 2006 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 15, 2006 meeting were reviewed. There being no amendments, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Guests' Presentations:

John Hatfield, Director, Virginia War Memorial,

Mr. Hatfield stated that because of the increased volume of visitors to the War Memorial over the past ten years (approximately 1000% increase), to include school groups, participants to patriotic events, Memorial and Veterans Day events, seminars, etc., the War Memorial has become too small to adequately house the increased volume of guests. To address the increased space needs, Delegate Hargrove introduced legislation during the 2006 General Assembly that would provide \$4 million for the War Memorial Educational Wing. However, at the end of the session, only

\$500,000 was appropriated. Amendments for \$3.5 million were proposed on both the House and Senate; however, neither amendment was passed.

Mr. Hatfield solicited the support of the JLC to include in its 2007 legislative agenda a request for full funding for the Virginia War Memorial Educational Wing. He acknowledged that the War Memorial Education Wing was included on the JLC 2006 legislative agenda and asked for the JLC's continued support in this effort.

Mr. Harry Warner distributed an executive briefing entitled "*Education Center Wing for the Virginia War Memorial*," which stated the purpose of the Education Center Wing and explained what the additional space will be used for. The cost of the new wing is estimated at \$5.6 million. The Virginia War Memorial Board of Trustees will raise \$1.6 million towards this goal. The General Assembly is being requested to fund \$4 million.

Questions were entertained and discussion followed. Mr. Hatfield distributed a flyer of upcoming events and invited JLC members to attend the Memorial Day Celebration at the War Memorial.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) – Freddie Jones/ Mike Duke

Freddie Jones, Division Administrator, Civil Rights Division of VDOT, made a presentation to the JLC entitled "*Transitional Internship for Returning Veterans*." He stated that VDOT's purpose is to establish a two-year nontraditional transitional internship program for 6-10 returning wounded and disabled veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan who are VA residents. Mr. Jones stated that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) had granted funding in the amount of \$500,000, and VDOT will contribute \$100,000 as "in kind" contributions (i.e., VDOT employees donating time, money) to help promote the program. Presently, the FHWA has provided \$250,000 of the \$500,000 grant, but there is a clear commitment to contribute an additional \$250,000 before the end of the federal fiscal year.

To initiate the program, VDOT has developed a job description for the position of Program Administration Specialist I (Wounded Veteran Program Coordinator). The position is a part-time position and will be advertised by the end of the week (May 19th). Once hired, the chosen candidate will help further define internships and administer the "*Transitional Internship for Returning Veterans*." program. VDOT feels that it would be advantageous to have a veteran in this position to help identify and bring in additional interns. **JLC members were requested to refer the names of any individuals that may qualify for this position. In addition, any suggestions for where advertisements might be placed for better exposure were welcomed.**

Mike Duke, VDOT Recruiting and Retention Coordinator, distributed copies of the presentation handout and the job description for the Program Administration Specialist I (Wounded Veteran Program Coordinator) job description.

VDOT has categorized several groups within the Internship Program wherein participation is solicited. Groups are as follows:

- The Advisory Group – responsible for assisting in identifying, developing criteria, in conjunction with VDOT, and screening and getting referrals to the program.
- The Internship Group – responsible for developing the program and placement activities; coordinates and collaborates with the Coordinating and Advisory groups; and address the potential and/or actual human challenges/barriers.
- The Monitoring Group – responsible for determining the needs of veterans; monitoring the progress of the placed veterans; and working with VDOT (mentors/coaches) to ensure the needs of the veterans are met and the program is on-course.
- The Public Relations Group – responsible for providing outreach/marketing programs; disseminating information about the program; and garner support for the program

The ultimate goal of VDOT is to develop the “*Transitional Internship for Returning Veterans*” as a pilot project and to challenge other state departments of transportation to do the same.

Mr. Jones solicited the support and involvement of the JLC to help implement the “*Transitional Internship for Returning Veterans*” program in the following ways:

- **Assistance in helping to gain exposure of the program;**
- **Participation in working groups of Committees that will be able to:**
 - 1. take on the primary responsibility for developing criteria;**
 - 2. help identify where potential participants might be located; and**
 - 3. interact with individuals in promoting the program and be involved in the screening/referral process**

Pat Green expressed his support of the program and recommended that VDOT coordinate with the Employer Support for Guard and Reserve (ESGR) in Washington, DC, as there are specific laws in ESGR that veterans must follow in getting a job. He expressed concern that if a veteran were to be referred for one of the part-time positions in the “*Transitional Internship for Returning Veterans*” program, the ESGR benefits might be affected. He also suggested that VDOT visit the ESGR website at www.esgr.gov to review the guidelines of the program. Mr. Jones emphasized that this type of expertise and knowledge from JLC members is needed in working groups to assist in program development.

Daniel Miller also applauded VDOT for its efforts in letting disabled veterans know that there is an agency/organization that will help them re-enter into society. He commented that the Veterans Outreach Program at the Virginia Employment Commission has Disabled Veterans Specialists whose sole responsibility is to work with disabled veterans in finding employment, and could assist in recruiting for the Program Administration Specialist I position. He recommended that VDOT contact Ms. Dee Esser, Commissioner of the Virginia Employment Commission, or Jerry Lindsey, VEC Veterans Services Coordinator. Mr. Jones stated that Mr. Lindsey is presently on VDOT’s contact list, but also asked that Mr. Miller provide assistance.

Jim Aucoin stated that the AMVETS counselors might also be able to provide assistance in making referrals to the program, as well as referrals from the TAP Program.

Additional questions were entertained and further discussion ensued.

Mr. Jones asked if it would be appropriate to request a mailing list of JLC members so that up-to-date information could be disseminated regarding the status of the program/dates of meetings, agendas, etc. In addition, he extended the invitation to any organization or representative from the VSOs to participate on any of the established committees for this program. Chairman Wickersham assured that this information would be provided.

Veterans Services Foundation

In the absence of Lydia Dudley, Vice-Chair of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF), Commissioner Burgess gave a brief overview of the VSF and discussed outcome results of the VSF Retreat held on April 13, 2006. He emphasized that all members of the VSF were present, and most critically, the chairs of both the BVS and JLC were in attendance.

Commissioner Burgess stated that at the Retreat, the VSF had developed a brief analysis of current and potential activities; established goals; and prioritized nine action strategies based on the established goals. He stressed that paramount to the VSF success, one of the goals established was to foster an internal working relationship and better communications across the Department of Veterans Services Boards (BVS; JLC).

The VSF targeted the following short-term goals:

- Identify working committees within the VSF to prepare specific plans of action for priority strategies;
- Conduct a needs assessment and identify service gaps with a list of specific prioritized funding needs and amounts by the end of July; and
- Complete a list of potential donors or corporations with links to the veteran population.

Commissioner Burgess stated that Foundation was established to receive funding, do fund raising, and develop a resource pool that can be used to help support veterans in Virginia with monies that cannot be provided through state government. A critical issue in assuring that the Foundation is able to further develop strategies and accomplish its goals is to have resources dedicated solely to this effort. He advised that Roz Trent, who currently provides DVS marketing and communications efforts, along with supporting the JLC and the Veterans Care Center Advisory Committee, will be assuming this role.

The Commissioner stated that a VSF status report will be given at each JLC meeting to keep the JLC informed of VSF activities. A copy of the nine VSF prioritized strategies will be sent to each JLC member.

Dr. Anderson stated that over the past three years, each entity – the BVS, the JLC and the VSF - has grown and established itself for the purpose in which each was created. He commented that unlike the BVS and the JLC, it was much more difficult to define exactly how the Foundation

worked, but he believed that the VSF is moving forward in a very positive, effective way. He commended the DVS staff for the support that has been given to the BVS, JLC and the VSF.

Chairman Wickersham concurred and expressed his excitement that the Foundation will become more of a leading partner with the BVS and the JLC and will function as they are chartered to do. He commented that if all three entities functioned in the full order, this will be a powerful mechanism for veterans in the State of Virginia.

Comments from BVS Chairman

Dr. Anderson acknowledged the presence of BVS member, Judson Stanley. He reported that the BVS was making significant progress, in conjunction with its JLC and VSF partners. He stated that one of his responsibilities as Chairman, in consultation with the BVS, is to write a letter to the legislature and to the Governor advocating on behalf of the veterans issues and specific programs. Much of this information is obtained from the JLC.

He stated that both the BVS and JLC have distinct uniqueness. Five members of the BVS are legislators. This allows the BVS direct access to legislative issues. The JLC is an organization in the government, yet is able to advocate to the government. It is an educational interest that brings the thoughts of the veterans community directly to the decision-makers.

Dr. Anderson informed the JLC that the BVS is closing out its third year, and sub-committees are very active and are also making significant progress. The BVS will hold its election of officers at the July 10th Board meeting.

Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Burgess reported as follows:

DVS Activities

- Organizational changes within the Department have been made. A copy of a May 5th memorandum sent to DVS employees and revised organizational charts which showed some of the major changes in reporting authority was distributed. The Commissioner explained that the financial and administration functions have been separated from the operations function of the Department. He stated that the change was critical in order to put more focus on financial operations, and would free up the Chief of Operations, Bert Boyd, to place more emphasis on benefits and other operations of the Department.
- The Commissioner advised that during the week of May 1-4, the Operations Program held a statewide training effort in Roanoke, Virginia for veterans services representatives (VSRs) from all field offices. He highlighted that the number of VSRs had increased significantly within the year, and this the first time that all VSRs had met together to discuss issues. Representatives from the USDVA, DVS seasoned VSRs, and representatives from other states were present to discuss, train, and assist VSRs in understanding best practices and improving services provided to veterans.

- The Commissioner distributed a copy of the most recent listing of “Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures for FY 2005,” which covered all the states in the country. He noted that Virginia ranked #11 for population of veterans in the United States; Virginia ranked #10 for Total Expenditures, for Compensation and Pension, Virginia ranked #8; for Education and Vocational Rehabilitation, Virginia ranked #6; and for Insurances and Indemnities, Virginia ranked #9.

Two areas not shown on the chart wherein Virginia did not rank #11 or above are in Construction/Medical and General Operating Expenses. Commissioner Burgess stated that the chart covered July 1, 2004 – July 1, 2005; however, since then, aggressive efforts have been made in looking at construction funding to support care center operations. Presently, a proposal is being developed to research information across the state of Virginia to determine where areas facilities may be needed and/or the type of facility that may be needed, whether it is an existing facility, renovating, or new construction of a facility on state property. This is critical so that Virginia can continue to be on the Federal Priority Listing for funding in the areas of construction/medical and general operating expenses for care centers, cemeteries, etc.

Richard Rinaldo stated that there is room to grow in advising the state of new things that can be done for veterans. Commissioner Burgess stated that judging from legislation passed in the 2005 General Assembly Session, and what will be seen when the budget is passed, he believed that there will be a tremendous increase in resources provided to the DVS, which will transcend into services to the veterans.

- The DVS is still waiting for a budget to be passed. The Caboose Bill was approved by the House and Senate. The Caboose Bill is a 2-year budget (2004-06) with tweaks made between the time it is signed and the passage of the next budget. Still waiting for action on the 2007-08 budget.
- Commissioner Burgess distributed the most recent DVS Calendar and asked members to review it for corrections and provide additional information. He stressed the importance of having one document that list of all activities taking place in the Commonwealth of Virginia and/or national events that may be taking place in the Commonwealth. Comments should be directed to Doris Sullivan at doris.sullivan@dvs.virginia.gov or (540) 857-7104.
- DVS will be involved in the following Memorial Day Events:
 - Friday, May 26, 2006**
9:00 a.m. - Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Hospital
*Attorney General Robert McDonnell will be speaking
 - Monday, May 29, 2006**
10:00 a.m. - Amelia Cemetery
2:00 p.m. - Albert G. Horton Cemetery (Suffolk)
* Secretary John Marshall and Commissioner Burgess will be speaking

10:00 a.m. – The Virginia War Memorial

*Dignitaries from the American Legion and AMVETS will be guests speakers

New State Cemetery

- Commissioner Burgess acknowledged a front-page article printed in the Roanoke Times Newspaper announcing that the House of Representatives had passed language that would allow the Radford Ammunition Plant to transfer up to 80 acres of land to the State of Virginia for the purposes of a state veterans cemetery. He recognized Pat Green, who had been a key player in this effort. Mr. Green commented on the leadership of U. S. Congressmen, Senator George Allen and Representative Rick Boucher, state legislators, Senator John Edwards and Delegate Allan Dudley, who sanctioned legislation to make this happen. He asked JLC members to express their appreciation when meeting with the congressmen/legislators. He also thanked the JLC for support given in this effort. Mason Botts suggested JLC members include this as an “item of interest” when speaking with Congressmen and/or Virginia legislators on behalf of their respective associations.

JLC Reappointments

- Steven Combs stated that all current JLC members’ terms will expire on June 30, 2006. All members are eligible for nominations of reappointments by respective organizations to serve another three year term to commence on July 1, 2006 and end on 6/30/2009. He stated that all members should have received an e-mail from the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth regarding interest in being considered for reappointments. In addition, all organizations should have also been contacted via e-mail advising them of the upcoming expired terms of current representatives and asking that they submit a letter of nominations for reappointment. Members who have not been contacted should advise Steven Combs. Both a letters are necessary for reappointment. Chairman Wickersham advised the members that this agenda item would fall under “New Business” and would be further discussed at that time.

Chairman Wickersham recognized the arrival of The Honorable John Marshall, Secretary of Public Safety. Secretary Marshall informed the JLC that May 15-19 is National Police Week, and that he was involved in state police memorial services. He stated that he had great interest in the JLC and the progress that had made since the last meeting. He emphasized that follow-through is very important on issues that are raised at JLC meetings and that both he and the Commissioner were committed to continue to follow through on issues that are raised. The Secretary JLC for the work that it performs one and recommitted the Administration’s commitment to veterans and to continue to keep Virginia’s status as the best managed state in the country.

Old Business

Update on JLC Officer Nominations for 2006-2007

Dan Miller distributed copies of the JLC Nomination Report. He acknowledged other member of the Nominating Committee: Connie O’Neil, and John Jackson. Nominations for JLC officers for 2006-2007 were as follows:

- Chairman – J. Pat Green,
Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Vice-Chairman – Mason S. Botts
Air Force Association

There were no further nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations on the two said names. Chairman Wickersham explained that a vote would be taken on the slate of candidates, and not specifically on the candidates, since all members are awaiting reappointments. A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of officers as proposed. A finalized vote will be taken at the next JLC meeting.

The JLC stood in recess for 10 minutes.

Chairman Wickersham called the meeting back to order at 12:15 p.m.

Old Business (resumed)....

Review of Proposed JLC Legislative Issues for 2006-2007

Chairman Wickersham asked each member to turn to page 11 of the March 15, 2006 minutes for discussion reference. He distributed a "Point Paper of Virginia Veterans Legislative Issues for 2007" which he had developed. He stated that the JLC faired extremely well during the 2006 legislative session, and now the focus was on "how to follow-up with the successes of 2006." He asked that each member discuss/recommend key legislative issues that the JLC should focus on for the 2007 General Assembly session.

Sam Wilder emphasized that the JLC would have to wrestle with the prioritization of legislative issues. He stated that the Council needed to consider how long of a list of issues should be; show specific should it be, and the exact process of the prioritization effort. He commented that as JLC legislative issues are coordinated with other entities, the priority listing may alter.

Each member expressed key legislative issues for their organizations. A consolidated listing of 2007 Legislative issues for the JLC is as follows:

- Better support for national guard and reserves (i.e. support for Team Virginia Family Centers to be located at places away from military installations)
- Support the Department of Veterans Services goals and strategic plan (i.e. support for training for DVS Veterans Service Representatives, state cemeteries, care centers, etc.)
- In-state tuition assistance for active duty and reservist military members and dependents
- Better support for national guard and reserves (with equal emphasis on the reserves)
- Waive the toll fee for all DAV, VFW vans, that transport veterans to/from the VA facilities, military organizations and/or veterans care centers
- Authorize veterans care centers to be placed in a special category so veterans organizations will be allowed to operate the canteen, rather than canteens being operated by the Department of Blind and Visually Handicapped (per state regulations).
- Veterans Foundation to help raise funds for Fisher House

- A Resolution that Congress allow the VA to pay full costs of state veterans home nursing patients (this will be captured in the strategic plan of DVS)
- Support for Fisher House project - someone to send a letter to Fisher House Foundation acknowledging how much the state will contribute
- State tax exemptions (income tax; personal property) for 100% in-service disabled veterans
- Support for the Virginia War Memorial Educational Wing (whatever was unfunded in the 2006 General Assembly session)
- Exemption from state income taxes while out of state (active/reserve, etc.) – (full or partial)
- Special veterans parking in state facilities
- Drivers' license renewal
- Free transportation (public transportation) for wounded veterans and their accompanists
- In-state income tax exemptions (if out of the state of Virginia, there would be no taxes; if in-state for 30 days, taxes to be paid)
- State tax credits or other incentives for employers who hire guard and reservists
- A tax credit to waive any income of a DIC recipient
- A Resolution from the State to the House and Senate supporting legislation that would exempt the special kickers that guard and reservists receive for education by virtue of their service in Afghanistan and/or Iraq. Should be able to retain this benefit if they leave reserve/guard.
- Preferential/guaranteed employment to veterans after discharge
- Make veterans in Virginia aware of U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs requirements for admission in the new Veterans Care Centers
- Long-term care for spinal cord injury and polytrauma veterans at veterans care facilities
- Support for a 4th Veterans Care Center

Mr. Wilder asked if the Fisher House project was an appropriate project to put before the Veterans Services Foundation. Chairman Wickersham stated that the Foundation may not be ready to take the lead in undertaking this task at this time.

Chairman Wickersham stated that the JLC will prioritize the 2007 legislative issues.

New Business

JLC Alternates

Chairman Wickersham asked for a discussion of the law that pertains to “alternates” attending/voting at JLC meetings. Steven Combs referred the members to the one-page sheet included in the agenda packets regarding § 2.2-2681 – Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations; membership; terms, chairman; quorum; compensation. The last sentence in italics read:

Each veterans service organization representative may designate an alternate to attend meetings of the Council in the absence of such representative.

Chairman Wickersham sought legal guidance. He asked counsel that if the Governor appoints the members to the JLC, but the language states that members can appoint the alternate, would the alternate be allowed to vote.

Don Ferguson, Counsel to the JLC, responded that since the JLC is an advisory board, and not a policy board, it is permissible for an alternate to sit on a committee and make a vote on behalf of the person that designated him/her as alternate.

Mason Botts stated that he was in favor of the language, as it was much less restrictive.

Chairman Wickersham reiterated that as the law is written, it is the JLC member's choice in designating an alternate. Mr. Ferguson pointed out that each member of the JLC was nominated by a veterans service organization, and organizations set their own guidelines for alternates. Per counsel, as the law is written, no official letter is needed; rather e-mail or phone call will suffice. He stated that the JLC by-laws may be amended to address this issue.

Sam Wilder stated that the JLC by-laws states that the alternate would have had to attend one meeting before he/she could vote. Pat Green explained that this is in the JLC by-laws, but that legislation has provided more flexibility regarding the alternate's ability to vote. The JLC Constitution, Article VII (2) states:

By-Laws may be amended, repealed or altered, in whole or in part, at any Regular Meeting, or at any Special Meeting called for that purpose, by the vote of two-thirds of the total authorized votes cast by the organizational representatives present and voting at that particular meeting, provided that the proposed changes shall have been furnished, in writing, to each organizational representative at least fifteen days in advance of the meeting at which the proposed changes will be voted upon.

Chairman Wickersham asked the Council to review this issue and action will be taken at the next JLC meeting. Mason Botts stated that he would amend the language in the By-Laws to delete the requirement that an alternate must attend one meeting before he/she is allowed to vote. Mr. Botts will e-mail to members the amended language so that the issue can be voted on at the next JLC meeting.

JLC Nominations

Pat Green asked that if only one name is submitted by the veterans service organization, would this present a problem for the Governor's Office. Chairman Wickersham stated that originally organizations submitted only one name for consideration as an appointment to the JLC. He stated that the Secretary of the Commonwealth's goal is to ensure diversity, and it was requested that three names be submitted. He asked counsel if there was a law that required the Secretary of the Commonwealth to request three names.

Don Ferguson stated that if the Governor's Office requested three names, they would have three choices in the selection process. However, he suggested that if an organization has trouble with submitting three names to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, a letter be submitted, along with

the organization's nominee/nominations, stating that a good faith effort was made, but because of size of the organization, etc. only one or two names could be submitted. He suggested that the JLC let the Governor act accordingly on the names submitted for appointments.

More discussion ensued. **A motion was made and seconded that Chairman Wickersham discuss with Chief of Staff Bill Leighty to have the process be clarified to only have one nomination from the organization for reappointments to the JLC.**

JLC Mileage Reimbursements

Pat Green inquired about mileage reimbursement for JLC members. Steven Combs stated that HB 1413, patroned by Delegate Hargrove, provided that JLC members would be reimbursed for travel expenditures. The bill was approved by both houses and signed by the Governor with an effective date of July 1, 2006. Staff would provide travel vouchers showing mileage from the home of record to the meeting site and return. If tolls are incurred, the member is responsible to provide this information. Travel expense vouchers will be distributed for signature at the next JLC meeting.

JLC Swearing-in Ceremony

Chairman Wickersham stated that he will work with Commissioner Burgess regarding the swearing-in ceremony, and will provide information to JLC members prior to that time.

Pat Green stated that he had been informed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth that once a member is sworn in, it is not necessary to attend a second swearing-in ceremony.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Determination of Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the JLC will be on Wednesday, August 9, 2006, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the American Legion Department of Virginia Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue in Richmond.

Mr. Wilder encouraged the Council to meet as soon as possible after the Governor's budget is released to solidify the JLC legislative agenda so that all other national organizations can align JLC issues within their legislative agendas. A tentative date was proposed for this meeting to be held on Wednesday, December 20th. A final determination will be made at the August 9th meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.